

2023 Annual Report



조선가정건강협회

Family Health Association of Korea

Mission

To create favorable environment for reproductive health promotion of the people and provide information and quality services related with reproductive health for all, especially for those in rural and mountainous areas.

Target Areas

North Phyongan Province	Kangwon Province
South Phyongan Province	North Hamgyong Province
North Hwanghae Province	South Hamgyong Province
South Hwanghae Province	Ryanggang Province

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Executive Council Members

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Treasurer	Ms. Ko Sang Gum
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Member	Mr. Kim Chun Sik
Member	Mr. Han Chon Hae
Member	Ms. Pae Un Ok
Member	Ms. Kim Song Gum
Youth representative	Ms. O Ye Song
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Ms. Yun Hye Yong	Ryanggang Province
Mr. Kim Chol Song	North Phyongan Province
Ms. Han Song Hui	South Phyongan Province
Ms. Pak Yong Sil	North Hamgyong Province
Mr. Hyon Kwang Won	South Hamgyong Province
Ms. Pak Chun Sil	North Hwanghae Province
Ms. Kim Se Ran	South Hwanghae Province



Message from President

I am looking back upon the year 2023 with great pride and confidence in which the miracle, the legend of DPR Korea was created to the wonder of the world.

2023 was a year of great significance when the local development policy of the Party began to be turned into reality, who regards it as one of the most urgent matters not to be ignored and suspended in radically improving the quality of life of citizens in the country to bring about a substantial change in the people's life.

Upholding the noble ambition of the Party that, though geographical settings, resources, economic potentials and living environments may differ between provinces, there should be no backward area concerning the people's living in our territory, factories, dwelling houses and service facilities not to envy urban areas started to rise tailored to the specificity of the cities and counties over the country.

Keeping pace to it, entire volunteers and staff endeavored hard all the year round to improve the reproductive health service delivery for people in rural and mountainous areas with a common idea to contribute to cultural development of socialist countryside.

Availing myself to this opportunity, I would like to pay my thanks to their dedicated efforts for health promotion and well-being of the people in the country.

In 2023, under more adverse conditions than ever, MA achieved remarkable success by applying innovative approaches to sustain service delivery to more people in various ways and methods including establishment of barrier-free conditions for disabled persons and remote counselling services.

It cannot be imagined apart from positive support by the Government, who directs everything for people's health and well-being in any hard situations, and hence, I am extending heartfelt gratitude for it.

MA formulated the new Strategic Plan 2023-2028 and took the first step for its implementation, in light of the vision of IPPF to strengthen the regional and global solidarity and collaborations and to provide quality services to more people with the ideal of building up the equitable world free from discrimination where everyone fully enjoys reproductive health and rights.

I am deeply grateful to IPPF devoting to righteous mission for people's reproductive health and gender equality for their sincere support and assistance for MA.

I would like to express my firm belief that every volunteer and staff will redouble their strength and be true to their duty as advocates, motivators and service providers for population in 2024 as well.

Dr. Kim Kyong Hye
President

In the current of new era of rural prosperity with the local cities and the countrysides rapidly changing and developing, we saw 2023 out and hopeful new year 2024 in, when we will become more powerful and wealthier, and I wish to extend my thanks to all volunteers and staff of Family Health Association of Korea, who had done their best to implement the new Strategic Plan.

As was the situation during severe health crisis in the past three years, our journey in 2023 was far from a smooth highway. However, each volunteers and staff tided over the challenges ahead in concerted efforts and exerted themselves to be in the van of rural civilization in the new age where the provinces and countrysides are transformed. Achievements were made in providing better conditions to increase the clients' rights to choice by adopting modern and diverse family planning(FP) methods.

In parallel with growing social concern and passion to support the disabled, admirable result was brought by working in closer cooperation with the Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled (KFPD) and through pilot intervention for arranging service environment suitable to them.

As a part of fixing client-centred surroundings to meet the demands of developing situation, digital health service was adopted on trial. And the attentions were also directed to constantly deliver the services through several Family Health Clinics, Outreach Service Teams and Associated Health Facilities. As a result, total 470,868 services were delivered to 113,603 clients in target areas including 255,194 FP services. This indicates the increase of FP services and other reproductive health services by 2.98% and 2.46%, respectively, compared with 2022.

Youth-led peer education was also actively conducted using various means like IEC materials, multi-media, etc., thereby reaching out to more than 94,000 young people with reproductive health information.

All these results could not be attained in 2023 without positive assistance of the Government who always gives top priority to the life and health of people and concentrates everything in need for them.

I, as the Executive Director of FHAK, am tendering warm gratitude to the Government for their sincere support for MA's activity for people's reproductive health.

In 2023, IPPF ESEAOR, being loyal to the principle of "leaving no one behind", paid deep attention and care for MA. It greatly encouraged MA and helped to ensure sustainability of service delivery when we were faced with difficult context, therefore, many thanks are also rendered to them on behalf of FHAK.

We will have to accelerate the implementation of the Strategic Plan in the New Year and roll out innovatory methods, following up the success and experience gained.

I am sure that, in coming days, all volunteers and staff will fulfil their duties and responsibilities to invariably walk along the road for health promotion and well-being of the people.

Dr. So Hyon Chol
Executive Director, FHAK



Report by Executive Director

SCALING UP SERVICE DELIVERY

Increasing accessibility to person-centred service

Delivering various services to everyone including disabled, elderly and young people is one of main principles set by IPPF which can be realized by providing client-centred context friendly to all as well as renovating methods for service delivery.

MA planned to fix the service settings appropriate for the clients in bad physical conditions

in all clinics and, as the first step, pilot activity for providing barrier-free conditions in Sinphyong Family Health Clinic was conducted under technical assistance by the organization for disabled people.

The clinic was renovated to have the clients receive health service in easy and safe spaces free from obstacles by re-fixing the pathways to enable the wheelchairs to pass and fitting up the safety handrails, etc. inside the building and at its entrance. Experience was acquired here enough to be shared with other Service Delivery Points.

And, as a part of introducing a new client-centred approach, digital health service through the country-wide computer network was initiated on trial in Hyangsan Family Health Clinic since April. Though it is merely a kind of simple remote counselling through local online dialogue, it is attracting lots of people including

the disabled and young people as the primary stage of digital health service which helps to relieve various psychological factors, temporal and spatial limitations with potential impacts upon clients.

MA plans to generalize its outcomes and experience obtained through its operation in future.



By strength of unity and cooperation



Thongchon Family Health Clinic, one of major Service Delivery Points of MA, was well relocated from April to the end of the year with collaboration from Government, IPPF and volunteers of MA.

Even during its removal, service for target population in the area continued by the financial aid from ESEAOR, IPPF. The project implemented by IPPF support to ensure sustainability of service for population in Thongchon County helped to deliver 14,971 services including 4,982 FP services between August and December for the population in the area. In addition, a new clinic was built for comprehensive reproductive health service through unsparing aid by Government and volunteers, and it could begin service delivery from early 2024.

Successes were gained during relocation of Thongchon Family Health Clinic by volunteers and staff who worked hard to protect reproductive health and rights of people in any adversities.



In order to improve the quality of Care

At the aim of meeting the diverse demand of population on reproductive health, IPPF formulated the client-centred care guidelines and virtual Quality of Care (QoC) system in 2022. MA carried out the project between January and March 2023 to update the existing QoC system and provide services in compliance to the QoC tools and service guidelines renewed by IPPF.

Standards for evaluating Minimum Initial Service Package(MISP) in humanitarian contexts and methods for virtual assessment were supplemented.

In addition, service guidelines was enriched by details about gynecological services, perinatal care during pregnancy, labor and after delivery, and MISP.



Training was given to 71 persons inclusive of staff in field offices and service providers from Family Health (FH) clinics on updated service guidelines and QoC tool. Participants acquired the skills enough to meet the different demands on reproductive health and had a deep understanding about the standard of QoC. Followed by the training was QoC evaluation using the tool in Sinphyong FH Clinic, final score reaching 90.5%.

As a result of the Project, a practical standard was prepared to deliver all kinds of services in client-centred principle.



CREATING FAVORABLE ENVIRONMENT

To bring forth social atmosphere for encouraging male participation in family planning

To foster male participation in family planning is a part of promoting social atmosphere to value women. MA arranged a campaign to motivate the male involvement in rural communities in 2023.

Putting focus on working with community leaders, we explained them about its importance and requested for their cooperation. 8 trainings were organized in the year for them on this subject.



Besides, 50,000 copies of IEC materials on related subjects were prepared and disseminated. IEC via mass media was also done at the same time.

Finally, more than 70 rural communities participated in the campaign, creating positive climate for it.

This project will be further scaled up based on this experience.

Widely spreading reproductive health knowledge among young people

From the first year of implementing new Strategic Plan, health information were broadly disseminated to young people. As a whole, 385 young people received health education in 15 batches in 8 target areas.

Comprehensive health information covered here included the concept of reproductive health, changes in adolescent,

legal and institutional steps set for protecting reproductive health and rights, duties for young people in ensuring harmony in families and society.

Diverse leisure activities like sports and entertainments at the end of lectures each day also attracted the attention of young people.

Peer education was also lively performed as a youth-led activity.

95,000 young people had access to reproductive health information through it in the year.



Kim Chol Nam, one of the peer educators, remarked as follows:



"I am pleased that the project, which was prepared by me and my colleagues, was selected and we could implement it. Why I am all the more proud of it is not only that we prepared it by ourselves but also that we were involved in all the process from planning to implementation. I hope our activities will be somewhat helpful in protection and promotion of reproductive health and rights of young people with disabilities. And I want to express my thanks to IPPF and Reproductive Health Organization of Uganda."

What is noticeable in 2023 was the peer education among young people with disabilities in Phyongsong City. A project to better the reproductive health of disabled young people through peer education was implemented in Phyongsong City by the aid of Global Youth Network-Youth Innovation Fund.

Young people with disabilities in Phyongsong City even prepared and disseminated themselves multi-media product in order to elevate the efficacy of their peer education. In consideration of their characteristics, MA separately arranged the training for 15 peer educators with disabilities and offered them related IEC materials.



BROAD SOLIDARITY AND UNITY

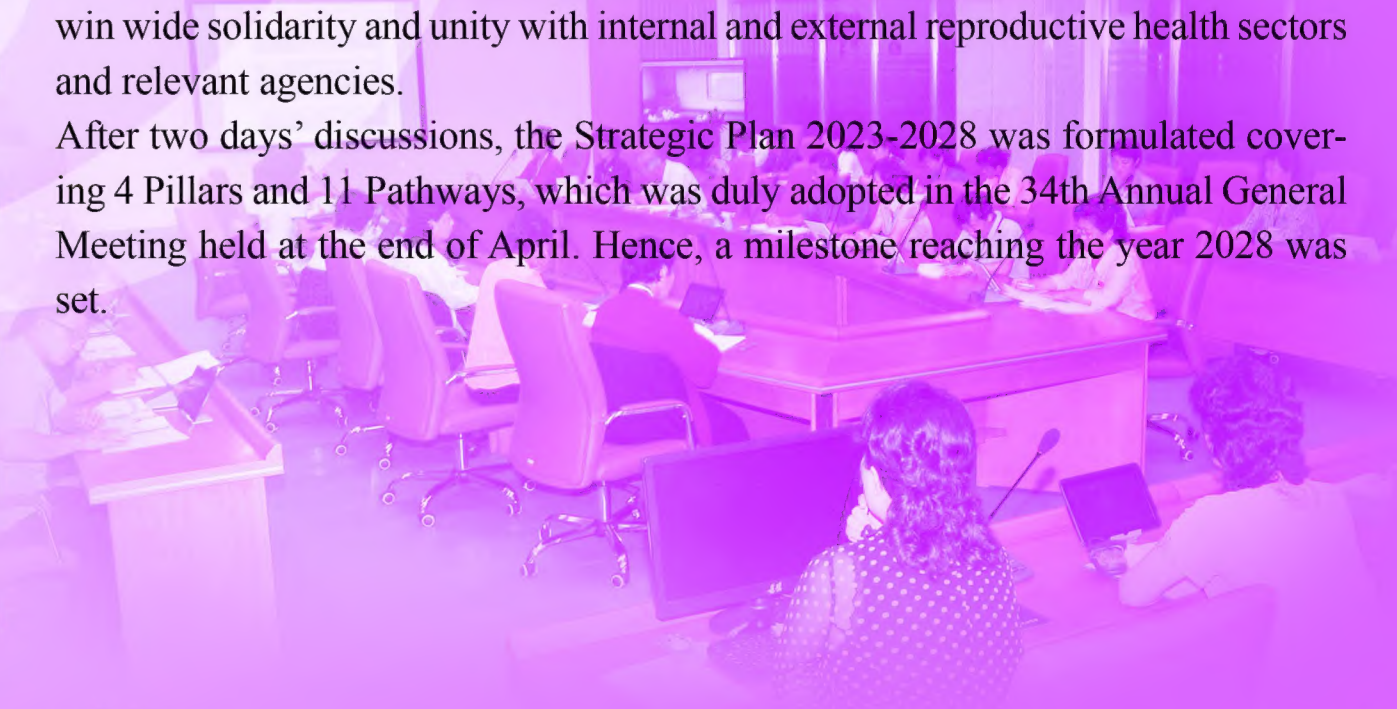
Development of FHAK Strategic Plan 2023-2028

A workshop was held in Pyongyang on 18th and 19th April in 2023 to develop the Strategic Plan 2023-2028. Government officials from Ministry of Public Health, Central Bureau of Statistics were invited and staffs from non-governmental organizations such as Korean Federation for the Protection of the Disabled, Korean Federation for the Protection of the Aged were present with those from other local organizations in relation to reproductive health, civil society organizations like youth and women organizations as well as MA volunteers and staff. More than 20 participants from about 10 institutions gathered in the meeting.

On the first day, the session reviewed the progress in implementing the previous Strategic Plan. The targets for 10 of all 12 indicators were reported to be fulfilled, while experience and lessons learned during the implementation period were briefed. It was followed by group discussion, which analyzed the reproductive health situation in the country and deliberated about the strategic directions to the year 2028 accordingly.

On the second day, discussions were made to confirm the specific goals as per the strategic directions and priorities based on the outcome of the first day session. Issues highlighted were to deliver comprehensive service to different population groups like youth, elderly, disabled, to introduce advanced courses as digital health service, to bring better social atmosphere for reproductive health and rights and to win wide solidarity and unity with internal and external reproductive health sectors and relevant agencies.

After two days' discussions, the Strategic Plan 2023-2028 was formulated covering 4 Pillars and 11 Pathways, which was duly adopted in the 34th Annual General Meeting held at the end of April. Hence, a milestone reaching the year 2028 was set.



Collaboration with the organization for the disabled



It is of great importance to closely collaborate with the organization for the disabled in order to make progress in improving reproductive health and rights of the disabled. Starting from this point of view, MA voluntarily unfolded the activities to keep relations with the KFPD.

Dialogues were made several times about the issues for protecting the reproductive health and rights of the disabled. Staffs, through the dialogues, shared common understanding that it is important for promoting reproductive health and rights of the disabled to provide them with convenient service environment and develop IEC materials for their use and give peer education among them.

After consecutive 3 dialogues, a joint action plan was made to set up barrier-free context in Service Delivery Points under MA from 2023 to 2028.

Declaration of this action plan is a turning point of a great significance in rolling out the activities to realize the reproductive health and rights of the disabled in conjunction with the organization for protecting the disabled in coming years.



Knowledge sharing in reproductive health sector



Joint workshop was held under the auspices of FHAK on the topic of “a life cycle and reproductive health” on the 26th, September. Officials from Central Bureau of Statistics attended the meeting with other participants from Pyongyang Maternity hospital, Academy of Medical Science, Population Centre. Survey data on local reproductive health situation was submitted,

while progress and experience in health promotion for young people and elderly were shared. The session ended with the consensus upon intensifying the research to include the indicators reflecting their reproductive health in the nation-wide health survey. The workshop encouraged all concerned organizations to enhance their activities for reproductive health service with mutual understanding that promoting it at all ages is important in uplifting the quality of life.



GROWING AND STRENGTHENING THE ORGANIZATION

Election of Governing Body

In line with the onset of new Strategic Plan 2023-2028, a shift was witnessed in Governing Body between February and April.

In February, central youth forum was held in Pyongyang at the presence of 45 youth representatives. Success and experience attained in youth activities in the year were presented and the way forward as per new Strategic Plan was deliberated. 9 youth representatives were selected to participate in the AGM, of whom 2 youth representatives to Executive Council were elected.

In early April, meetings of volunteers were held in 9 target areas separately to select the representatives to AGM, and 34th AGM was held in Pyongyang at the end of the month at the presence of 45 representatives(women and young people taking 62%, 20%, respectively).

Annual performance was reviewed and new Strategic Plan, revised constitutions and regulations, policy were adopted.

In addition, 9 representatives to Executive Council were elected, and 11 members of council including two youth representatives nominated by youth forum constituted the Executive Council.

Thus, the Governing Body with its terms of office from 2023 to 2025 was newly organized, providing the leadership forcibly pushing forward to implement the new Strategic Plan.



Building up operational capacity

At the beginning of the year, trainings were held for 103 persons including staff from field offices and service providers in target areas to enhance capacity for MISP. The training was aimed at rendering knowledge about objectives of MISP, its components, estimation of demands on MISP Kits and their usage. Post-training awareness was 94.3% in average. Professional training on safeguarding was given in May. Two staff from Head Office and 16 staff from field offices met in the



session which briefed the concept of safeguarding and details of its framework of IPPF. Lectures followed touched the related responsibilities for staff and assessment standards, complaints system, safeguarding policy of MA. The training aroused the interest of participants by enabling them to elevate their mutual respect and equality as well as responsibility in their work.

Exchanging experience on paper forum

Experiences were shared through the paper forum on MA Newsletter “Family Health News”.

Already in the first quarter after it was organized, more than 30 volunteers and staff handed out several articles on different experiences in encouraging self-care for reproductive health promotion in remote areas, about various IEC activities to increase male involvement in family planning, on peer education to provide clear understanding about reproductive health and rights among young people, etc., which would contribute a good deal to MA activities.

Three articles were published in the paper quarterly, drawing attention from all volunteers and staff. This activity through the paper forum will continue to make a fresh space for sharing experience within the organization in future.

SERVICE STATISTICS

FP services

Service items	Services provided/enabled			Total
	FH Clinics	Outreach Service Teams	Associated Health Facilities	
FP General Counselling	38,081	6,934	78,069	123,084
Oral Contraception	17,092		59,391	76,483
Injectable Contraception	4,519			4,519
Male Condom	6,310		16,830	23,140
Implant Contraception	367			367
IUD	13,727	10,319		24,046
Female Sterilization	215			215
Male Sterilization	153			153
Emergency Contraception	128		598	726
Fertility awareness-based method	1,028		1,433	2,461
Total	81,620	17,253	156,321	255,194

Non-FP services

Service items	Services provided		Total
	FH Clinics	Outreach Service Teams	
Abortion	5,668		5,668
HIV/AIDS	126	182	308
STIs/RTIs	5,190	2,788	7,978
Gynecology	57,388	67,455	124,843
Obstetrics	10,156	10,940	21,096
Urology	1,970	2,542	4,512
Subfertility	2,156	1,658	3,814
Specialized SRH	6,888	5,126	12,014
Pediatrics	3,719	2,564	6,283
Non-SRH	10,128	19,030	29,158
Total	103,389	112,285	215,674



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